

Message Text

PAGE 01 STATE 205904

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 205904

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. NONALIGNED CONFERENCE MOOD ON ISRAELI EXPULSION

A CONSENSUS SEEMS TO BE FORMING IN LIMA ON DEVELOPING A FINAL COMPROMISE DECLARATION ON THE ISRAELI SUSPENSION ISSUE WHICH MAY BE SIMILAR TO THE KAMPALA ACCORD. THE ARABS HAVE SO FAR FAILED TO AGREE AMONG THEMSELVES:

--THE SYRIANS, IN THEIR EFFORTS TO PRESERVE A SEMBLANCE OF MILITANCY, ARE SAID TO BE DEMANDING AT LEAST A REFERENCE TO ISRAELI SUSPENSION IN WHATEVER RESOLUTION EMERGES.

--THE EGYPTIANS, ACTING ON INSTRUCTIONS FROM SADAT NOT TO GIVE IN TO THE SYRIANS, HAVE FIRMED UP THEIR POSITION THAT THE NAC RESOLUTION SHOULD NOT INCLUDE AN ISRAELI EXPULSION DEMAND.

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 205904

DELIBERATIONS ARE APPARENTLY GOING ON IN THE AD-HOC POLITICAL COMMITTEE, WHICH, ACCORDING TO UNCONFIRMED REPORTS IS LARGELY MORIBUND. THE LACK OF PROGRESS IN REACHING AN AGREEMENT MAY ALSO STEM FROM AFRICAN RESENTMENT AT ARAB

ATTEMPTS TO DOMINATE THE COMMITTEE. (CONFIDENTIAL) LIMA
7091, 8/28.)

2. ARGENTINA: MRS. PERON LOSES FACE

EMBASSY BUENOS AIRES COMMENTS THAT MRS. PERON HAS LOST ON
ALL COUNTS:

--SHE HAS BEEN FORCED TO ACCEPT ARMY COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF
LAPLANE'S RETIREMENT AND AN IMPOSED REPLACEMENT, GEN-
ERAL VIDELA, ONE OF THE MOST ANTI-PERONIST OF THE
GENERALS.

--INTERIOR MINISTER DAMASCO IS STILL IN OFFICE BUT HE
WAS FORCED TO RETIRE FROM THE ARMY AND HIS PRESTIGE AND
AUTHORITY HAVE BEEN SEVERELY DAMAGED.

EMBASSY COMMENT: BY DELAYING ACCEPTANCE OF LAPLANE'S RESIG-
NATION MRS. PERON ONLY INCREASED HER DIFFICULTIES. THE CRI-
SIS SERVES TO EMPHASIZE THAT THE MILITARY DOES NOT WISH TO
TAKE OVER, HOWEVER, UNTIL THERE IS NO DEMONSTRABLE ALTERNA-
TIVE. (CONFIDENTIAL) BUENOS AIRES 5781, 8/28.)

3. IRANIAN ARMS TRANSFERS: DOING IT RIGHT

DESPITE THE SHAH'S UNDERSTANDING OF, AND INTENTION TO COMPLY
WITH, US REGULATIONS ON THIRD COUNTRY ARMS TRANSFERS AND THE
EMBASSY'S REPEATED EFFORTS TO EDUCATE GOI OFFICIALS, THE
EMBASSY IS NOT ENTIRELY SATISFIED BECAUSE:

--IRAN FEELS COMPELLED TO RESPOND POSITIVELY TO RE-
QUESTS FOR MILITARY ASSISTANCE FROM ITS POORER NEIGH-
BORS, PARTICULARLY JORDAN AND PAKISTAN.

--THE INEFFICIENCY OF THE IRANIAN MILITARY MAY RESULT
IN UNINTENTIONAL VIOLATIONS BY INEXPERIENCED OFFICERS.

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 205904

EMBASSY TEHRAN SUGGESTS OUR EMBASSIES IN AMMAN AND ISLAMABAD
APPROACH SENIOR OFFICIALS TO EXPLAIN THE DANGERS INHERENT IN
QUIETLY ARRANGED IRANIAN TRANSFERS AND OFFER ASSISTANCE IN
INITIATING THE PROPER PROCEDURES. (CONFIDENTIAL) TEHRAN
8396, 8/28.)

4. SAUDI ARABIA: PRINCE SULTAN ON THE ATTACK

IN AN INTERVIEW PUBLISHED IN THE BEIRUT NEWSPAPER AL-ANWAR,
MINISTER OF DEFENSE PRINCE SULTAN EXCORIATED "THE ZIONIST
CAMPAIGN IN THE US AGAINST THE ARABS" AND ARAB INVESTMENT
AND STRESSED THAT:

--THE SENATE INVESTIGATIONS ON ARMS SALES TO SAUDI ARABIA BY PROXMIRE, CHURCH AND JACKSON ARE MOTIVATED BY "ZIONIST PRESSURE GROUPS" AND THEIR ALLIES.

--THE SAG IS DETERMINED TO DIVERSIFY SOURCES OF ARMS RATHER THAN RELY SOLELY ON THE US.

EMBASSY COMMENT: PRINCE SULTAN MAY BE ERECTING LINES OF DEFENSE AGAINST ANY FORTHCOMING REVELATIONS BY THE PROXMIRE (OR THE CHURCH) COMMITTEE. HIS, AND THE SAG'S, WILLINGNESS TO SPEAK OUT IN PUBLIC IS NEW SINCE KING FAISAL'S DEATH. (CONFIDENTIAL) JIDDA 5996, 8/28.)

5. LEBANON: MORE COMMUNAL VIOLENCE

IN WHAT EMBASSY BEIRUT DESCRIBES AS THE MOST SERIOUS INCIDENT SINCE THE END OF THE THIRD MAJOR ROUND OF LEBANESE FIGHTING, CHRISTIAN-MOSLEM ANTAGONISM IN THE TOWN OF ZAHLE HAS LED LOCALLY TO LARGE DEMONSTRATIONS AND A SERIES OF BOMBINGS. GOL SECURITY FORCES INTERVENED AND ARRANGED A CEASEFIRE AFTER ARRESTED CHRISTIANS WERE RELEASED ON BAIL. (CONFIDENTIAL) BEIRUT 10906, 8/28.) INGERSOLL

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